

**From:** [Margo Vanderhill](#)  
**To:** [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)  
**Subject:** Contraception as part of insurance  
**Date:** Thursday, August 11, 2011 11:33:25 PM

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Dear HHS

I strongly support the adoption of the IOM recommendations for insurance coverage without a co-pay. The adoption of this recommendation would mean that many more women would be able to afford to space their families and plan their lives more confidently. The coverage should also reduce the need for abortion, a saving in cost and trauma for all.

While I support religious freedom, the religious freedom to practice contraception or not should lie with the policy holder, that is the employee, not the institution. Institutionally dictated mandates may conflict with the patient's own beliefs or medical necessity, as there are many applications of contraceptives that are health-determined rather than determined by family planning. Surveys indicate that Catholics overwhelmingly practice birth control, despite church doctrine. Allowing religious institutions to bar contraceptive coverage puts the majority of Catholic employees at a disadvantage.

Thank you.

Sincerely

Margo Vanderhill